

SPEECH OF SECRETARY SEWARD.

His views on National Affairs—The South—Representation—His Opinion of Reconstruction—He Defines the Position of the President.

ATLANTA, May 23.—Secretary Seward delivered a lengthy speech on national affairs at the National Union Convention here to-day. The national condition has undergone some material changes since that time; we were then on the verge of a series of elections throughout the States. The leaders who so pertinaciously claim to be Democratic, organized with their customary machinery and omissions. They had wisely ceased to denounce as a failure the war for the Union which at last became a success. They thought to undermine the destructive power of the Union by affecting a new-born admiration for its chief, Andrew Johnson. They seemed anxious to commit themselves to support him as a candidate for the Presidency in 1868.

HOW THE SOUTH ACCEPTS THE SITUATION. They returned the rebellion with all its far-reaching roots and all its poisonous fruits, and they accepted and retained them pending Congressional action. The Constitution of the United States, which abolishes slavery henceforth, forever. The people of these States have at the same time chosen for themselves, by free and untrammelled suffrage, Governors as Legislators, judges and municipal authorities. Between the federal government and these restored and reorganized State governments, there exists now a more complete and practical harmony than has ever before prevailed between the Union and so many of its members since it was first established. Within this period the Executive Department of the United States has assumed its functions among the people of these former disloyal States.

THE SOUTHERN REPRESENTATIVES. The State Department speaks for them, with their free consent, to principalities and powers; the Treasury collects the national imports and taxes there; the navy of the United States rides freely in all the open ports and harbors; the Postoffice circulates through every vein and artery there, the knowledge which is the revivifying blood of a united Republic. The people of the lately disloyal States, desiring to pass the last stage of restoration, are now ready to have chosen Senators to represent them in the Senate, and members to answer for them in the House of Representatives, and those Representatives are daily waiting at the Capitol.

CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENT. The future of affairs which distinguishes the public mind is the proposed divergence between the President and the representatives in Congress of the National Union party, from which he and they have derived their respective but co-ordinate powers.

I agree, therefore, that it would be a sad misfortune if divergence between the President and Congress should work a decline and downfall of the National Union party.—It is dear to me, for I am identified with its rapid rise, its majestic progress and its glorious work.

The national life lately hung on the issue of victory won in war. It now hangs on the issue of reconciliation or peace. The nation must live forever, which it will not, if it neglects the care in any emergency at the hands of one President, Congress and party, or at the hands of another.

I reasoned in this way about the triumphs of the war. I reason in the same way now in regard to reconciliation and peace. I expect that a year hence I shall be found to be right now, as I am now admitted to be right one year, two years, three years ago.

I don't think, however, that there is any necessity for separation between the President, the Congress, and the party of the Union.

WHAT THE COUNTRY REQUIRES. At this point it will be well to settle for yourselves what it is that we are desiring to see effected by the President and Congress. We all agree that we desire and seek just what this nation needs at the present juncture. What then does the country actually need? Most persons say reconstruction. I think it needs no such thing.

The country is reconstructed already. It was constructed in 1787. As then constructed, it was a Union of thirteen States, since multiplied to thirty-six free, equal, separate, self-acting, and, in regard to internal affairs, self-governing States, each with its own rights, which has not been destroyed.

There has indeed been an attempt at destruction, but it has failed. The political system of 1787, constructed by our forefathers, stands now firm, compact, complete and perfect—just as it came from the builders' hands. It was constructed not for eighty years only, nor yet for a period of civil war only, but for all alternating conditions of peace and war, and for all ages and all time.

RECONCILIATION. What then does the nation need? It needs just what I have dwelt upon so much and so earnestly in these remarks: It needs reconciliation—and just now needs nothing more. It needs moreover a very little of this. It needs a reconciliation between the Senators of the United States who are now acting, and those Senators who, being loyal and qualified for membership in the Senate, had been already, or may hereafter, be elected by the people of the several States which were lately involved in the rebellion.

It needs a reconciliation of the same kind between the members of the House of Representatives who are now acting, and loyal members already elected by the people in the same before mentioned States. It needs just this Congressional reconciliation and nothing more.

THE PRESIDENT'S POSITION. The President's position is absolutely taken, well defined and universally understood. It is this, namely: That so far and so fast as the unrepresented States present themselves in a loyal attitude, by representatives unquestionably loyal, they are entitled to representation in Congress, equally with all other States, and just as well as if there had been no rebellion. The representatives of the National Union party in Congress do not agree with the President, but think they differ only in regard to non-essentials.

THE CONFEDERATE FLAG IN MEXICO.—An effort was made on the eve of the funeral, in Mexico City, of the late Henry W. Allen, ex-Confederate Governor of Louisiana, to have the coffin borne to the grave covered with a Confederate flag; but, owing to the firmness of the United States Consul at the Capital, this demonstration was abandoned by the friends of the deceased.—N. Y. Herald.

APPOINTMENTS TO WEST POINT.—The President, it is stated, has made the following appointments to West Point: Wm. Weir, of N. Y.; Jacob Bell, Jr., of N. Y.; O. L. Hoist, D. C.; Thomas Townsend, D. C.; Douglas Grant, son of General Grant.

Tri-Weekly Standard.

RALEIGH, N. C. SATURDAY, - - MAY 26, 1866.

The President's Policy.
The representatives of the States should be the LOYAL MEN, willing to abide by and devoted to the UNION AND THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATES.

ALL responsible positions and places ought to be confined distinctly and clearly to men who are UNQUESTIONABLY LOYAL.—President's Reply to the Virginia Convention.

I hold it my duty to recommend the admission of every State to its share in public legislation which it presents itself in the persons of representatives whose LOYALTY CAN NOT BE QUESTIONED under any existing constitutional or LEGAL TEST.—President's Veto Message.

The Constitution declares that no State shall be deprived of its equal suffrage in the Senate of the United States without its consent. Then, where do we stand? All that is needed to finish this great work of restoration is for the two Houses respectively to determine the question. Oh! but some one will say, "A traitor might come in!" The people of these States have at the same time chosen for themselves, by free and untrammelled suffrage, Governors as Legislators, judges and municipal authorities. Between the federal government and these restored and reorganized State governments, there exists now a more complete and practical harmony than has ever before prevailed between the Union and so many of its members since it was first established. Within this period the Executive Department of the United States has assumed its functions among the people of these former disloyal States.

I will put an end to the Freedmen's Bureau just as soon as the South, by proper action for the PROTECTION OF THE FREEDMEN, make it unnecessary.—President's Interior and General Gov.

The Standard will be furnished to members of the Convention for seventy-five cents during the session.

Mr. Clark's Resolutions.
The extraordinary resolutions of Mr. Clark, of Craven, proposing to adjourn or dissolve the State Convention, will be found in the first day's proceedings of that body.

These resolutions assume that the work for which the Convention was elected has been accomplished; and that Mr. Clark was careful not to set out in his resolutions the declaration by the President in his proclamation, and also by the Provisional Governor in both his proclamations providing for the Convention, that the Convention possesses "authority to exercise within the limits of said State, all the powers necessary and proper to enable such loyal people of the State of North-Carolina to restore said State to its constitutional relations to the federal government." We say Mr. Clark was careful to omit the above, for he well knew that if he set out this language his resolutions would have no relation to the object he has in view. The Convention, thus chosen and clothed with "all the powers necessary and proper" to restore the State to the Union, has not yet accomplished this work; and therefore, any proposition to dissolve the Convention at this time, is in direct opposition to the authority of the President, and is calculated to prevent the restoration of the Union.

It is also assumed by Mr. Clark, that the Convention does not derive its authority from the people, and that further action by it would be revolutionary. If this be so, then all that has been done in the way of reorganizing the State is purely military in its character—has been done without the authority of the people, and is as much revolutionary as any future action would be. If this be so, then are the members of the Convention mere instruments in the hands of the military, and so far as the people are concerned, they are intruders and usurpers.—Such is the logical result from the position taken by Mr. Clark, Gov. Worth and others.

The Standard says "President Johnson has announced that nothing more is required of us." This is notoriously untrue. President Johnson has announced no such thing. On the contrary, we have no doubt the President would regard the present occasion as a most opportune one for conferring with the loyal delegates of the people of this State on the great business of restoration. A fine opportunity is now presented, through the action of our State Convention, to reconcile the differences between the President and Congress, and to pave the way for the admission of North-Carolina to her full privileges as a member of the Union. If this opportunity is allowed to pass by, years may elapse before the State is restored. The issue therefore is, *Union or Disunion!* If the proper steps are taken by this Convention, the State can be restored by the first day of next January; but if the Convention should adjourn, and nothing should be done, we may look for continued disunion, military rule, taxation without representation, anarchy, violence, and perhaps civil war! If these calamities should befall us, the people will know who to hold responsible for them.

Since the above was written, the Convention, by a vote of 61 to 30, on motion of Dr. Grissom, has laid these resolutions on the table. We announce this result with much gratification. With the exception of a few good Union men, the negative vote was composed of the Worth faction. Let us hope, for the sake of the country, that these twenty-four or twenty-five embrace the full strength of that faction in the Convention. The Convention has made a noble beginning. Let it go on as it has begun, and it will deserve and receive the thanks and blessings of every sincere friend of the Union.

The Sentinel engaged in Gov. Worth and his friends engaged in an effort to dissolve the Convention! Could impudence or falsehood go further than this? It is notorious that Gov. Worth's friends have been active in this movement, and it could be proved that Gov. Worth himself has been personally engaged in it. We repeat, Gov. Worth and his friends fear the action of a loyal Convention like the present. The objection which they make to it, that it will add to the expenses of the State, and that it will increase the excitement in the public mind, is purely selfish. If it were a secession, disloyal body, they would be glad to have it in session for months, and we should not hear a word about expense or excitement.

The Sentinel, Gov. Worth's organ, reeking as it does with disloyalty and hatred to the Union, presumes to justify itself by appealing to President Johnson. That paper and its partisans hold President Johnson's plan of restoration in the utmost contempt.—Mild, moderate, generous as it is, they will not even carry that out. Why, the mover of the resolution (Hon. C. C. Clark) to dissolve the Convention, is himself a standing monument of opposition to the President's policy; in that he heeded not Congress boasting that he could not and would not take the test oath, over a gentleman who could take it. President Johnson has repeatedly declared that the members elect to Congress under his plan must be such as can take the test oath; and he has also declared most emphatically, time and again, that if there be five thousand loyal persons in a State, to them must be confided the important work of restoration. The President does not regard either Gov. Worth, or the Sentinel, or Mr. Clark as loyal. He declared last November, that the election of Gov. Worth had greatly damaged the work of restoration, and that another step in that direction might prove fatal. If the fatal step had not been already taken, it certainly was taken by Gov. Worth and his friends on Thursday last, when they attempted to dissolve a loyal Convention of the people of this State.

AFRAID OF THE PEOPLE!—Mr. Phillips, of Orange, introduced an Ordinance in the Convention yesterday, providing for a Convention to amend the State Constitution in 1871. Mr. Phillips, although he says he is for the white basis, would tie up the hands of the people for five years to come, leaving the present unjust basis in operation.

What will the free white men of Orange say to this proposition to fetter them for years on this vital subject? Warren County, for example, under the present basis, with a white population of 5,000, has an equal voice in the Legislature with Orange, which has a white population of 11,300. Such gross inequality ought not to be continued for five or six years, as proposed by Mr. Phillips.

We understand that Mr. Settle, in the brief discussion that took place, got a decided advantage over Mr. Phillips on this question.

The Standard is now the only out-and-out, independent, loyal Union newspaper in the Atlantic Southern States, so far as we know.—Standard, 24th.

If this be so, the Lord help the "Union cause!"—Sentinel.

To which we respond amen! The Union cause will receive no help from the Sentinel and its partisans. They want no Union unless they can have it their own way, with rebels and traitors in office over the heads of the much-reviled Union men.

We have no room for comment to-day on Gov. Worth's message to the Convention. It is certainly an extraordinary document to proceed from a loyal Executive.

The Sentinel is alarmed at the prospect of a change of the basis of representation in the Legislature. We do not sympathize in this alarm. The time has come for a change of basis, and we believe it to be the duty of the Convention to make the change. Let the white basis, so-called, be established, and let it be either of votes or of the whole white population. Nor can we perceive any strong reason for a property qualification for members of the Legislature. It might be well to provide that no person under twenty-five years of age should be eligible to a seat in the Senate.

The Militia of this county organizes to-day. All white males, between the ages of 18 and 45, are liable to perform military duty.

We hope the Convention or the Legislature will do something to relieve the people from the useless demonstrations of "training day," by amending the militia laws so as to abolish the training of militia members. All that is necessary, is to keep those liable to military duty, enrolled.—Winston Sentinel.

JUDGE WARREN.—We had the pleasure of taking by the hand our old friend, Judge Warren, this morning. He is looking very well, and informed us that he had got along finely on the circuit. He left Raleigh this morning for Washington, where he will hold the spring term of Beaufort Superior Court next week, which finishes the circuit except Hyde county, which will be held week after next.—Newbern Times.

The floating notes that fill the air in Railway cars have proved to consist of small particles of iron dust that are thrown up by the centrifugal current of the air caused by the great number of iron wheels in rapid motion. The friction of the wheels upon the iron rail gradually but surely wears away the iron. It was heretofore erroneously supposed to be particles of soot and coal blown out of the smoke stack.

We learn that the Right Reverend Thomas Atkinson, Bishop of the diocese of North-Carolina, will leave this city for Europe some time during the coming week. The health of this eminent divine has been in a wretched condition for some time past, and this is taken with the hope of restoring to better health, so essential to the active discharge of his duties as Bishop of the diocese. May that health soon be restored, is the prayer of all sincere Christians.—Wil. Journal.

TO EMIGRANTS TO MEXICO.—The Memphis Argus of the 15th says: "Colonel Morgan, of this city, has just returned from a visit to Cordova, Mexico. He says the whole affair of emigration to Mexico, with a view to bettering one's condition in that country, is a humbug. General Price is working with his own hands among his laborers. The guerrillas hold the entire country away from the immediate vicinity of the larger towns."

CORN FOR FUEL.—The Galena Gazette says that corn was so plentiful in Illinois last year that, in some parts of that State, it was used for fuel. It was considered much cheaper than wood. Ears of corn could be bought for ten cents per bushel, per measure, and seventy bushels, worth seven dollars, will measure a cord. A cord of wood including sawing, cost nine dollars and fifty cents, which is two dollars and fifty cents more than the cost of a cord of corn, besides the fact that corn produces more heat than the wood, and the opening of adequate highways to the seaboard for western productions, and home markets furnished by the protection of American industry would be put to more profitable uses.

The internal revenue assessment in New Orleans for the past year amounts to \$4,487,000—an increase over the previous year of \$3,147,000.

Proceedings of the Convention.

ADJOURNED SESSION.

THURSDAY, May 24th, 1866.

Pursuant to order of adjournment, the delegates to the Convention of the people of North-Carolina, assembled at 12 m., in the Common's Hall, when they were called to order by the President, Hon. E. G. Reade.

After prayer by Rev. L. L. Branson, the roll was called, and the following answered to their names: Messrs. Alexander, Allen, Baines, Barrow, Beam, Bell, Berry, Bingham, Bradley, Brickell, Bryan, Buxton, Bynum, Caldwell, Burke, Clark, Cowper, Dickson, Eaton, Ellis, Faulkner, Furches, Gahagan, Garland, Garrett, Godwin, Grissom, Harris, Guilford, Harris of Rutherford, Harrison, Haynes, Henry, Hodge, Jackson, Jarvis, Jones of Davidson, Joyce, Joyner, Kelly, King, Lash, Logan, Love of Chatham, Love of Jackson, McAuley, McCormick, McDonald of Chatham, McDonald of Moore, McGee, McIver, N. McLean, McLaughlin, Mebane, Moore of Clatham, Moore of Wake, Murphy, Odum, Phillips, Polk, Rumley, Rush, Little, Smith of Anson, Smith of Johnston, Starbuck, Stevenson, Stewart, Swann, Thompson, Williams, Wilson, Winborne, Winston and Wright—75.

The chair announced that there was a quorum present, and the Convention would now proceed to business.

A communication from Gov. Worth was then read, in relation to the election of sundry delegates to fill vacancies which occurred in the interim between the adjournment and the reassembly of the Convention. The communication being read,

Mr. Allen asked leave to present the credentials of Jesse Peasall of Duplin, *vice* Nicholson, deceased.

Mr. Peasall presented the credentials of Gen. Sam. F. Patterson of Caldwell, *vice* R. L. Patterson, resigned.

Mr. Moore of Wake moved that his colleague Mr. Harrison be allowed to qualify, having been detained by sickness from attending the Convention, and his certificate being now mislaid. No objection was made.

Mr. Winston presented the credentials of D. W. Bagley of Martin, *vice* Stubbs, resigned.

Mr. Person of Wayne, *vice* Kennedy, resigned; also the credentials of Mr. Foy of Onslow, *vice* Saunders, deceased.

Mr. Rumley presented the credentials of Hon. A. H. Jones of Henderson, *vice* A. H. Jones, deceased.

A communication from R. W. Best, Esq., Secretary of State was read, asking instructions as to the distribution of 500 copies of the laws of 1864-5, printed by order of the Convention.

Mr. Clark then offered the following preamble and resolution:

RESOLUTIONS TO ADJOURN.
WHEREAS, This Convention was called and did assemble at the instance and under the authority of the President of the United States, as the Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy, thereof to the end that they might be enabled to restore the Union, and amend its organic law in conformity to the necessitating results of the late war, might in fact exercise and enjoy the constitutional rights and privileges of membership in the federal Union;

And whereas, The Convention did, at its former session, fully and satisfactorily accomplish the purpose for which it was called and did assemble, at the instance and under the authority aforesaid;

And whereas, This Convention was moved to assemble in present session, by the possibility that in the course of events further action in the premises might be required or demanded by the President of the United States, and his official military position as aforesaid;

And whereas, No further action as aforesaid is so required or demanded;

And whereas, All ordinances and enactments, further affecting the organic law of the United States, and the rights and privileges of the Union, and the continuance of such feeling, and hope that the day is not distant when the Northern people shall be satisfied that their distrust of us is ill founded, and that the relation we profess, as well as public policy, demand mutual forgiveness and reconciliation.

I therewith enclose a communication from the Public Treasurer, suggesting certain amendments to the Revenue Act, as voted by the General Assembly. I commend his recommendations to your favorable consideration.

In consequence of the order of the President of the United States relieving the Provisional Governor, I resign my office, and in charge of my duties as Civil Governor, in conformity with your Ordinance, on the 28th day of December last. I had to encounter some irregularities growing out of the transition from one office to another, and the people to restore order in their government, have presented themselves in putting into action the machinery of civil government in the State.

In my official correspondence and intercourse with the Executive officers of the United States, and with the Major-General Ruler, the Military Commandant of this State, all have exhibited a uniform disposition to avoid unnecessary jarings in the discharge of our respective duties, and readiness to cooperate with me in everything tending to restore cordial reconciliation between the lately belligerent sections of our country.

I learn from General Ruger, to whom the President of the United States has assigned the chief supervision of the Freedmen's Bureau in this State, that he would gladly transfer to the civil courts of the State full jurisdiction in all matters relating to freedmen, but that he feels embarrassed in doing so, consistently with his instructions, on account of certain provisions and conflicting constructions of the act of the General Assembly, passed at its late session, entitled "An act concerning negroes, persons of color, or mixed blood."

His difficulties are understood to grow out of the 9th and 11th sections of the act. As it is very desirable that the civil courts shall mete out uniform justice to all, white and black, according to law, and that all cause of dissension as to conflict of jurisdiction should be avoided, I recommend the subject to your consideration.

My relations to your body, as I conceive, do not warrant me in submitting any recommendation to your body, in relation to the scope of your action. Hence, I had not intended, until your call of yesterday, to submit any message whatever. Having the fullest confidence in your wisdom, I would not obtrude my views or wishes upon you.

My humble and cordial regards to results beneficial to our unhappy country.

JONATHAN WORTH.
The report of the Public Treasurer was read also. It will be published hereafter.

Mr. Foy introduced an ordinance for the relief of the people of the State, who have suffered losses by the war. Lies over.

Mr. Moore introduced two ordinances, amendatory of "an act concerning negroes, persons of color or of mixed blood."

The ordinance of twelve having arrived Mr. Clark called up his resolution to adjourn, introduced yesterday.

Mr. Grissom moved to lay on the table. Mr. Clark demanded the yeas and nays. The yeas were taken, and the resolution failed, yeas 62, nays 27, as follows:

YEAS.—Messrs. Alexander, Allen, Baines, Beam, Bell, Bingham, Bradley, Brickell, Bryan, Buxton, Bynum, Caldwell, of Burke, Dickey, Eaton, Ellis, Faulkner, Furches, Gahagan, Garland, Garrett, Godwin, Grissom, Harris, of Guilford, Harris, of Rutherford, Harrison, Haynes, Henry, Hodge, Jackson, Jones, of Davidson, Jones, of Henderson, Jones, of Rowan, Joyce, Joyner, King, Lash,

Mr. Furches, an ordinance prescribing qualifications for Senators—proposing a qualification of \$1,000 worth of taxable property or 300 acres of land in fee, and age of 24. Referred to same committee.

Mr. Settle arose to enquire when the committee raised at last session to digest the Constitution and laws of the State would report, when

Mr. Moore, for the committee, stated that it was ready to report at any time, and was only detained for the disposal of pending amendments.

Mr. Moore of Wake, a resolution concerning public appropriations to Chatham Railroad. Lies over.

Mr. Buxton, an ordinance providing that hereafter no person in this State shall be imprisoned for debt.

Mr. Furches introduced the following amendment to section 3, clause 3, of amended Constitution:

SECTION 3.—No free negro, free mulatto, or free person of mixed blood, descended from negro ancestors to the fourth generation inclusive, though one ancestor of each generation may have been a white person, shall either vote for or be members of the Senate or House of Commons of North-Carolina. Referred to the Committee on Constitutional Amendments.

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.
The following message from Gov. Worth was then read:

Gentlemen of the Convention:
Since your adjournment last October, nothing has occurred of knowledge touching our position in reference to the Federal Government, which is not matter of public history.

At your previous session you made the amendments to the Constitution and passed the ordinance believed to be necessary to complete reconciliation with the United States, and our restoration to national fraternity.

Although our people, with remarkable unanimity, yielded their assent to your action, and were ready, without any exception with respect to knowledge, to acknowledge their allegiance to the United States, and to obey the laws and Constitution thereof, we have been grievously disappointed by the rejection of our members from the Congress of the nation. This rejection has not been placed at the ground of any irregularity in their election or qualification. While the Congress recognizes the existence of the State Government to the extent of incorporating into the Constitution of the United States the amendments thereto, they still continue to govern and to tax us, without allowing us any participation in making the laws or imposing the national taxes.

The Congress has been sitting some five months, without prescribing any terms on which it will recognize our admission to the Union. We have elected men whom we believe to be as loyal as any men in the United States;—every one of whom labored to preserve the Union till hostilities had actually commenced, and every one of whom has renewed or is ready to renew his oath of fidelity to the Government of the United States.

Whether any one of them could conscientiously swear that he never aided or sympathized with the rebellion, I do not know. If any and Navy, thereof to the end that they might be enabled to restore the Union, and amend its organic law in conformity to the necessitating results of the late war, might in fact exercise and enjoy the constitutional rights and privileges of membership in the federal Union;

And whereas, The Convention did, at its former session, fully and satisfactorily accomplish the purpose for which it was called and did assemble, at the instance and under the authority aforesaid;

And whereas, This Convention was moved to assemble in present session, by the possibility that in the course of events further action in the premises might be required or demanded by the President of the United States, and his official military position as aforesaid;

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And whereas, All ordinances and enactments, further affecting the organic law of the United States, and the rights and privileges of the Union, and the continuance of such feeling, and hope that the day is not distant when the Northern people shall be satisfied that their distrust of us is ill founded, and that the relation we profess, as well as public policy, demand mutual forgiveness and reconciliation.

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Logan, Love, of Chatham, Love, of Jackson, Lyon, McCauley, McCormick, McDonald, of Chatham, McDonald of Moore, McGee, McIver, N. McLean, McLaughlin, Mebane, Moore of Clatham, Moore of Wake, Murphy, Odum, Phillips, Polk, Rumley, Rush, Little, Smith of Anson, Smith of Johnston, Starbuck, Stevenson, Stewart, Swann, Thompson, Williams, Wilson, Winborne, Winston and Wright—75.

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